

The SWORD of the LORD

Edited by JOHN R. RICE.

"And they cried, The Sword of The Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20

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A Widow, a Pot Of Oil and God!

By EVANGELIST JOHN R. RICE

In the days of Elijah and Elisha in Israel the principal prophets of God gathered about them a group of God's workers called "Sons of the prophets." One of these "sons of the prophets" died leaving debts, and the creditor harassed the widow, seeking to sell her two sons as bond servants to pay the debt. The thrilling story of how God heard the cry of this poor widow is told in II Kings 4:1-7, which we quote here:

"Now there cried a certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets unto Elisha, saying, Thy servant my husband is dead; and thou knowest that thy servant did fear the LORD: and the creditor is come to take unto him my two sons to be bondmen.

"And Elisha said unto her, What shall I do for thee? tell me, what hast thou in the house? And she said, Thine handmaid hath not any thing in the house, save a pot of oil.

"Then he said, Go, borrow thee vessels abroad of all thy neighbours, even empty vessels; borrow not a few.

"And when thou art come in, thou shalt shut the door upon thee and upon thy sons, and shalt pour out into all those vessels, and thou shalt set aside that which is full.

"So she went from him, and shut the door upon her and upon her sons, who brought the vessels to her; and she poured out.

"And it came to pass, when the vessels were full, that she said unto her son, Bring me yet a vessel. And he said unto her, There is not a vessel more. And the oil stayed.

"Then she came and told the man of God. And he said, Go, sell the oil, and pay thy debt, and live thou and thy children of the rest."

God Can Always Open a Way For His Children in Trouble

Almost every man that God ever calls to preach must go through an apprenticeship of poverty. That is not bad, it is good. No doubt the poverty of God's preachers has kept out of the ministry many a man who otherwise might have tried to preach, but who was not willing to pay this price. And that is a blessing, for God does not need preachers who are not willing to suffer. And people do not want to hear a preacher preach who is not willing to be poor, willing to do without even the comforts of life, in order to preach the gospel.

But in Israel this "son of the prophets" died in debt, and that is a bad thing. No money is often better than borrowed money. We do not know whether this young servant of God had brought reproach upon himself by having debts that he could not pay; many, many preachers do. But certainly he brought heartache to his wife, and almost brought slavery to his sons by having debts that he did not pay. Unpaid debts are not only economic disaster, they are spiritual wickedness.

The widow was utterly heartbroken. She grieved over her lost husband, doubtless she grieved over the unpaid debts as any godly woman would do, and she was nearly frantic that the pitiless creditor was about to take her two sons into bondage. So in desperation she "cried unto Elisha." Her whole plight and argument is stated in one short sentence; "Thy servant my husband is dead; and thou knowest that thy servant did fear the LORD: and the creditor is come to take unto him my two sons to be bondmen."

God's faithful prophet, Elisha, had a remedy which God showed him. Thank God there is always a way out for a child of God, if we go to God and trust Him! Who could be more helpless than such a poor widow in Bible times? She had no trade, she

could not teach school nor be a secretary as modern women can. She had her children to care for, had no money to live on, and was faced with disaster. But she came to God through His prophet, and God showed the way out. Let us all remember that when trouble

CONGRATULATIONS DR. H. A. IRONSIDE!

By THE EDITOR

Our beloved brother, Dr. H. A. Ironside, whose sermons are a blessing to thousands of readers of *The Sword of the Lord* has our fervent congratulations, along with the great Moody church, Chicago, where he has labored as pastor for fourteen years. The debt on the great million dollar Moody Memorial Church building, has been entirely liquidated, and the notes were burned, amid great rejoicing, on New Year's eve. Dr. Philpott, former pastor, under whose leadership the building was built in 19-27 was present, as was Evangelist Gypsy Smith. The last \$375,000, as I recall, was paid off under Dr. Ironside's leadership, much of it in depression years. Both Dr. Philpott and Dr. Ironside have done a marvelous work, and the loyal and faithful membership of Moody church deserves great praise for paying out this "cathedral of fundamentalism," with its auditorium seating 4,040, with other auditoriums, class rooms, offices and equipment. We understand that only two Sundays have passed during Dr. Ironside's pastorate of fourteen years without someone publicly confessing Christ as Saviour.

God bless you, Dr. Ironside and Moody church! We love you and rejoice with you over this blessing! May fresh anointings be yours, that the church founded by D. L. Moody may blaze with revival fires, and stand as a lighthouse where many thousands shall yet find Christ!

WHAT IS A SOUL WORTH?

By DR. P. W. PHILPOTT

(Sermon preached Sunday night, November 15th, 1942 at Wheaton Bible Church, Wheaton, Illinois. Stenographically reported for *The Sword of the Lord*.)

You will find the text for my address in the sixteenth chapter of the book of Matthew and verse 26.

"For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"

An Unanswered Question

When Jesus was here, during the years of His public ministry, He frequently asked His hearers questions, and some of the questions that He asked they were not able to answer. They were unanswerable questions. Sometimes He enforced a great truth by asking a question of this kind. Sometimes He silenced hostile critics by asking a question they could not or dared not answer because of the Roman authorities. You have some examples of this in the twenty-second chapter of this same gospel.

There were three groups, you know, associated with temple worship at that time: the Herodians, (the politicians), the Sadducees who didn't believe in the resurrection, and the Pharisees. These three groups hated each other like they hated Satan himself, but they hated Jesus Christ more and so they got together in a conspiracy. They decided they would arrange a series of questions, that they would ask questions with the thought of entangling Him in His words. In other words, they wanted to have Him say something in answer to their questions that would put Him in wrong with the Roman authorities.

Now the Sadducees asked a very silly question. Sometimes we preachers have folks ask us very silly questions. Sometimes they will come up and say, "If you will tell me where Cain got his wife, it will clear up a big problem with me." Dear old Dr. Torrey once had a fellow tell him that if he could answer that question, he would accept the authority of the Scriptures

and become a Christian. Dr. Torrey said after he talked with him a few minutes, he decided it wasn't Cain's wife that was his problem; it was another fellow's wife!

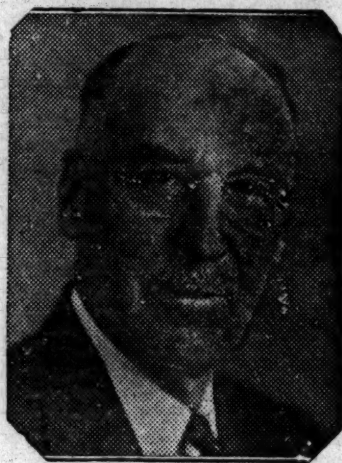
The moral, rotten spot in some fellow's heart makes him ask fool questions. The Sadducees came and said, "Now Moses says that if a man was married and died without having any children, then the wife should marry his brother." And they said, "There were with us seven brothers." (Now I don't know whether they were telling the truth or not or whether they were fixing this up for the question). They said there were seven brothers. The woman married one, and he died, then she married another, he died; then she married another, he died; and they went right on down the line until they had the whole seven dead! Then they said she died. I would think so after all that! I think she would be tired out getting ready for the funerals and the weddings! And so these Sadducees said, "Whose wife will she be in the resurrection?" They didn't believe in the resurrection, but they were ridiculing Jesus. They said, "Whose wife will she be in the resurrection?" Jesus said, "Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures . . . for in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven."

A fellow said to me not long ago, who had been married a few days — I called on him because he was an old friend of mine — "I tell you, Philpott, I married an angel." I said, "Just wait a few days and you will find out. Angels don't get married." And that is what Jesus said here — just women folks, not angels.

Jesus answered them in that way. Well, then the Pharisees asked this question, "By what authority do you do these things? Who gave you authority to teach these things?" And Jesus said, "I will ask you a question. If you will answer it right, I will answer this. The ministry of John the Baptist, was that from Heaven, or was it of man?" The Pharisees began to reason. They said, "If we answer that that ministry was from Heaven, then He will say, 'Why don't you do what John the Baptist told you to do? Why don't you obey that teaching?' And if we say that ministry was from man, then people will stone us, for the people have great confidence in John the Baptist and hold him in high regard. We will not answer this." Then Jesus said, "Neither will I answer you."

Then the Herodians, the politicians, came and said, "We know you are an honest teacher who always tells the truth, and we would like to know whether we should pay or whether you think it is right to pay tribute to Caesar or not." Any Jew in that day would have spoken up and said, "No," and spit when he said it. They

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Dr. P. W. Philpott

Former Pastor, Moody Church, now Associate Pastor, Peoples Church, Toronto.

comes the thing to do is to come to God. "And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me." (Psa. 50:15). "Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee:" (Psa. 55:22). "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you." (I Peter 5:7).

God loves us, His poor children. He always has plenty. He always knows a way out. Preachers ought to be like Elisha who could get from God the answer to the poor widow's problem.

What You Have Is Enough for God!

Elisha said to the poor widow, "What shall I do for thee? tell me, what hast thou in the house?" In other words, whatever you have in the house is enough for God. If it is nothing but a pot of oil, God can multiply the oil. If it is only a handful of meal in the bottom of the barrel, God can make it last to feed Elijah and a woman

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RICE-SHUFELT ENGAGEMENT

Here are the engagements of the John R. Rice — J. Stratton Shufelt evangelistic party for the immediate future, given to encourage you to pray for us, and so that those who are in the areas named can attend, when possible, the revival services.

January 16 — February 13, Union Revival campaign, Whittier, California. Whittier Union High School auditorium, reputed to 2,500 people. We do not have a full list of the churches cooperating with the campaign. This is a campaign greatly needing your prayers.

February 13 through March 1, Mr. Shufelt will engage with the beloved H. A. Ironside of Moody Church, Chicago, in a large campaign at Oakland, California, previously arranged. I know all will pray for great blessings there, and all who can will attend.

February 15-20, John R. Rice will be with the Evansville Rescue Mission, Dr. Earnest Reveal Superintendent, his fourth engagement in four years in that blessed soul-winning center. There will be daily radio services.

March 5-16, the Rice-Shufelt

party will be in a union revival campaign in Everett, Washington, sponsored by a number of churches, place to be announced.

Other union campaigns scheduled for the year include Stroud, Oklahoma, and Tacoma, Washington. Still other invitations are being prayerfully considered. We feel that God is leading us to accept union campaigns almost exclusively, and hope that churches which have invited us will prayerfully see whether a union campaign is possible instead of a one-church campaign. Our brethren will understand that it is impossible to accept all the invitations we receive, and since a large union, interdenominational campaign, in a central and neutral auditorium or tent will reach more people and save more souls, by God's mercy, we feel we ought to accept such invitations wherever possible.

Will you pray that God will help us win thousands of souls this year, and build up the churches; that under God we may be used to stir revival fires all over America, and bring back the day of great revivals like those of Moody, Torrey, Chapman and Sunday?

A Widow, a Pot of Oil and God!

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and her son until the drought was passed. (I Kings 17:8-16). If there are only five small barley biscuits and two fishes in a little lad's lunch, when Jesus Christ blesses it and breaks it, it will be enough for five thousand people! (John 6:9).

God said to Moses, "What is that in thine hand?" And Moses said, "A rod." (Exodus 4:2). But that walking stick became "the rod of God" that could bring plagues upon all of Egypt, that could become a serpent before Pharaoh, that could open or close the Red Sea, that could bring water for millions of people out of the rock. And if some poor Moses reads this who does not have a rod in your hand, then whatever you do have is enough for God! Samson took the jaw bone of an ass and killed a thousand Philistines, the enemies of Israel (Judges 15:15). I have often taken courage because God could use the jaw bone of an ass, and have offered him my jaw-bone too! God can use whatever you have.

It is wonderful to come to realize that God is the master of circumstances. I asked a preacher friend how he was getting along, and he replied, "Oh, very well, under the circumstances." I replied at once, "You ought to get out from under the circumstances. A Christian is not under circumstances, but under grace!"

You do not have any silver or gold? That does not worry God; He made all the silver and gold in the world. If you are short on meat, that is nothing to the God Who made the cattle on a thousand hills! I am glad that poor widow had nothing but a little pot of oil. Maybe you do not have any more than that. Well, whatever you have, it is enough for God.

In fact, God seems to like it better when people will trust Him to do the unlikely, the improbable. He has set the weak things of the world to confound the mighty (I Cor. 1:27). He told poor troubled Paul, trying to get rid of a thorn in the flesh that humiliated him and limited him, "My strength is made perfect in weakness." He could use Paul better in his weakness than if he were strong. God would rather win a victory with three hundred of Gideon's men than with thirty-two thousand! (Judges 7:7).

However little you have does not matter. The only thing that matters is that you wholly surrender what you have to God!

God Wants Empty Vessels, and Plenty of Them

Elisha said to the troubled widow, "Go, borrow thee vessels abroad of all thy neighbours, even empty vessels; borrow not a few." To the logical but unbelieving mind it would appear silly to get a lot of empty vessels to hold oil when she did not know where the oil was coming from. But those who get help from God must provide the empty vessels. For the poor widow to go out and appeal to her neighbors that she might borrow empty vessels, lots of empty vessels, would be a real test of her faith.

"Hello, Mrs. Jacobson," I suppose she said, as she knocked at a neighbor's door. "May I borrow all the vessels you can spare? I should like to borrow the churn, the milk pail, a vinegar jug, some syrup buckets, cream crocks, and water jars — anything you can spare."

I can imagine the raised eyebrows of Mrs. Jacobson. Surely, she is glad to let her widowed neighbor borrow some vessels, but

what in the world will she do with so many? Fill them with oil? But where will the oil come from? Out of that one little pot of oil she has? Then the hesitant explanations. The prophet of God said she should get plenty of vessels and that God would fill them all, and she could sell enough to pay all of her debts.

I can imagine the incredulity of the neighbors. One would laugh outright in open scepticism. Another would only smile strangely, thinking the widow had come on a fool's errand, and would certainly bring the vessels back in disappointment when the oil would not flow and she found she had no need for them. Perhaps some neighbor insisted that she must not depend on such foolishness, but be reconciled to losing her boys. After all, other mothers had their boys sold into bondage and she must be brave and bear it; the days of miracles were past and "God helps them that help themselves," perhaps! And I can imagine that as the widow and her sons lugged all the vessels home to the bare little house, fright gripped the widow's heart, and she thought she would surely die of shame if she had to carry those vessels back and tell all the curious, gossiping neighbors that after all God did not furnish oil to fill them all.

But an infinite God is some way limited by our faith. In Galilee Jesus "did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief" (Matt. 13:58). On the other hand, Jesus said to the father of the poor afflicted boy, "If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth." (Mark 9:23). "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Hebrews 11:1. Faith makes unseen things real. Faith makes cash out of God's checks. Faith gets the vessels ready and then a faithful God must fill them as He promised!

Abraham left Ur of the Chaldees, and on the promise of God went out into a country he had never seen, not knowing whither he went.

Noah built a great ark on dry land before there was any indication in the world that there would be a flood, except the indication of God's promise and command. "Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught," said Jesus to Simon Peter (Luke 5:4). And Simon Peter said in effect, "Lord, we have fished all night and didn't catch a fish. I know there are no fish in this part of the lake today. Andrew and I and James and John and their father Zebedee have already quit fishing for the present and have washed our nets. I know there are not any fish out there, but if you say so, I will let down the net." It seemed the most foolish thing in the world. What would the other fishermen gathered on the wharves think of Peter getting his clean net dirty again when everybody had already discovered there were no fish that day in that part of the sea? Fishermen can be bald and merciless in their teasing. Peter will be the butt of many a joke if they catch no fish, yet Peter let down the net. And behold, the net was filled and it took both boats to hold all the fish they caught that day! Peter prepared the empty vessels; the Lord Jesus filled them!

It seemed foolish to roll away the stone from the grave of Lazarus when he had been dead already four days and the body surely would be stinking. But men had to roll away the stone before Christ would call Lazarus from the dead.

I know a preacher with a fervent, burning heart who feels called of God to be an evangelist. Yet he fears to resign his pastorate. What if he could not get revival invitations? What if his work was a failure, if he had no income for the care of his family, if he should later be told that he had played the fool to give up a good pastorate and a fair salary and come to want and ridicule, because he wanted to be an evangelist! But God never fills vessels until they are borrowed.

I know the burden that was on my heart when with about \$9.35 in my pocket I rode my cow pony from our stock farm in west Texas toward Decatur Baptist College.

The kind president had written frankly that there were no jobs to be had whereby a boy could pay his way. Older students had already been employed. I thought how ashamed and heartsick I would be if I had to ride my pony back home in those days of financial stringency, and tell my father that God had not provided me a way to go on to school, although I had ridden away ever so bravely. Oh, I resolved, I would not ride that road back until the year's session was ended! And bless God those empty vessels I provided, God wonderfully filled!

I have failed God so many times. But one other time I provided lots of empty vessels when it seemed surely there was no oil to fill them. I accepted a revival invitation in Binghamton, New York. A man who habitually slanders preachers in his paper secretly prevailed upon the pastor to cancel my engagement as he has jealously attacked many other sound and useful preachers. But I felt that God wanted me to go for that revival campaign. I sent ample evidence of my doctrinal position to the pastor.

Then I drove away in my car, from Dallas to Binghamton, New York, in mid-winter, without money enough in hand for the return trip, planning, if need be, to rent a hall and have an independent campaign in the town where God had so clearly led me to accept an invitation. Oh, the heart searching during those days of winter driving and praying! But when I arrived in Binghamton the Grace Baptist Church had widely announced the revival campaign and received me with open arms. Within eight days the campaign had blossomed into a city-wide campaign in the big Binghamton Theatre seating twenty-two hundred people, with eight or nine churches cooperating. In the month in the theatre there were nearly four hundred public professions of faith, most of them adults, and the city was profoundly stirred. Oh, I have found out that if you furnish the empty vessels according to God's commandments, you may be assured He will multiply the oil to fill them!

How glad I am that the widow with trembling fingers and flushed face, perhaps, and with rapidly beating heart, borrowed and piled up the empty vessels in her home, according to God's orders.

Thank God that He is content with the empty vessels. The servants, under the direction of Mary, the mother of Jesus, at the wedding in Cana of Galilee, could do no more than furnish some stone jars full of water. As far as wine was concerned, they were empty. But with the water that was so freely available, they were filled to the brim! It was left up to Jesus to make the wine, altogether. No one else could do it, but He did. And it was the best wine at the wedding feast, as ascribed in second chapter of John.

Poor childless Abraham could not produce a great nation. But he could go into the promised land and settled down so God could multiply his seed as the stars of the heaven and as of the sands of the seashore. And Noah could not make a flood, but he could build an ark and go into it. Andrew could not feed the five thousand, but he could find a little boy's lunch of five barley loaves and two fishes and bring them to Jesus. Peter could not catch any fish in the Sea of Galilee, although he tried all night; but he could launch out into the deep and let down his net where Jesus commanded. Jesus filled the nets with fish! So this poor woman could not have brought in pots full of oil from the neighbors. But after all God wants empty vessels. He can fill them.

Some people are not filled with the Holy Spirit. Perhaps the reason is that they have not been emptied of other things. The cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the Word that it becomes unfruitful. And too much to eat at the tables of this world means that one does not feed upon the manna from Heaven.

Abraham wanted to provide his own heir, but God would not have the vessel with Ishmael in it. Moses wanted to free the children of Israel by his own strength and leadership, but God would not liberate the nation when Moses killed an oppressor in his own strength.

WHAT IS A SOUL WORTH?

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thought that Jesus, being a Jew, would be obliged to say the same. "Should we pay tribute to Caesar?" they said. And Jesus said,

THE BACK TO THE BIBLE BROADCAST

By THE EDITOR

It has been a great pleasure to be with Rev. Theodore H. Epp and his *Back to the Bible* broadcast Dec. 27 to Jan. 13, speaking each week-day morning at 8:30 in a half hour program over fourteen stations. The heavy mail indicates that much good was done and precious souls were saved. Last Sunday at Nebraska City a girl of eleven came with her mother to tell me that she was saved January 1, as I preached to children on the radio.

Brother Epp, a few days ago, sent a check for \$20,000. to the SOUDAN INTERIOR MISSION, to take care of expenses in sending out a shipment of missionaries to Africa. Missionaries who sailed about the first of the year for this mission, including some children, totaled thirty-six souls, one of the largest numbers this mission has ever sent out at one time. Brother Epp has raised and sent in over \$48,000 for foreign missions alone in the past year. Money used for radio time, missions, etc., including all expenses of the broadcast, was a little more than \$200,000 in 1943; one fifth of a million dollars! Our dear brother lives simply, on a regular, meager salary, and trusts God for the heavy expenses. And the money comes in, without any undue begging, to take care of God's work.

In 1944 Mr. Epp is praying that his broadcast may be heard each week day on at least fifty stations, at least one in each state, and that will triple his expense. But he believes God, and we believe God will continue to bless his simple, believing, fervent, Bible teaching, soul-winning ministry. He is growing a fine musical staff, has a dozen or more workers in his busy office. We hope you can hear his program. Radio log was given in a recent SWORD OF THE LORD.

May we like the poor widow woman in the days of Elisha, get empty vessels, even clean vessels, and set them down where God can fill them with oil.

"Borrow not a few," Elisha plainly commanded the widow. She was to "borrow thee vessels abroad of all thy neighbours." How many vessels? The command did not say. That would depend upon the woman's faith. If we are content with little, God can only give a little. One of the shameful things about the average plan for a revival campaign is the smallness of the arrangements. Small auditoriums, little advertising, little organization — these are marks of small faith. Preachers often write me, "Let us begin the campaign in the church auditorium. Then if we run over the auditorium we can put people in the basement with a public address system." Or they say, "Let us begin in the church building; we feel at home there. Then if we should over-run the church auditorium, we can secure the high school auditorium." But the sad fact is that God usually can only give us the kind of revival we have prepared vessels for. It is a rare, rare thing for a revival campaign to overrun and outgrow the arrangements made for it by a church or a group of churches. And when it does so, it is by the faith of the evangelist and not by the faith of those who made the small plans.

Christians need to learn again that "Ye have not because ye ask not." Psalm 81:10 commands us, "I am the Lord thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt; open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it." God is as eager to give big gifts as small ones. God is as eager to enter into great plans as to bless small plans, or more so. Oh, when you go to deal with God, get plenty of vessels, "not a few."

The Miracle Behind Closed Doors

Elisha said to the widow, "And

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"Why tempt ye me, ye hypocrites? Does any one here have a penny?" That is suggestive, isn't it? The Man who has done the most good in this world never had any money. Jesus never had money, and who ever blessed the world like Jesus? He said, "shew me a penny," so they handed Him one and He held it up to them. "Whose image is that? Whose superscription is that?" They said, "That is Caesar's." "All right," Jesus said, "Render unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's." The Caesars are making a big demand now, calling for the best that we have: our men, our women. And Caesar is getting the best of muscle and backbone and brains that we have. But there is the other side: "Render unto God the things that are God's." I have a feeling that we can hasten the day of victory and hasten a better day for the earth and humanity when we begin to render to God the things that are God's.

I am giving you this example of how He asked and sometimes answered questions by asking them.

A Soul the Greatest Thing God Ever Created

But I have taken this text tonight because I want you to see here that we have the divine estimate of the value of a human soul. And we have here the answer to the question that we sometimes ask, "Why did He love me so? Why did my Saviour to Calvary go?" Because He knows the value of your soul and my soul. That is why He loves you so. He went to Calvary for us to make the salvation of our souls a possibility.

In the first and second chapters of Genesis you have the story of creation. You will observe as you read it that man is the last on that long list of created things and created beings. But he is not last because he is the least important, he is the most important. Someone has said, "Man is God's masterpiece when it comes to creation," and he is. In that first chapter you just have the purpose of God described, the creative purpose. "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness." But in the second chapter, the seventh verse you have that creative act described. That is the point. He formed man out of the dust of the earth and then He breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and man became a living soul. You don't read that of any other created being or any other created thing. It is this that distinguishes man from every other created being: man became a living

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WHAT IS A SOUL WORTH?

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ing soul. Think of it for a moment, beloved friends. Had you ever thought of your soul as being greater than the whole world with all of its glamour and all of its glitter? Man is a living soul. Sometimes we say a man has a soul. You have heard that quite commonly said. But the nearest truth is to say man is a soul. Man has a body. He has a house in which he lives.

I was reading something the other day about a great American citizen, John Quincy Adams. One day when he was eighty he took a walk, and a neighbor shouted to him, "How is my good friend, John Quincy Adams?" The old man stopped and looked at the neighbor and said very slowly, "John Quincy Adams himself is very well indeed, thank you. But the house in which John Quincy Adams is living is sadly delapidated. The walls are beginning to tremble; in fact, every time the wind blows, this house trembles on its foundation. The roof is badly worn, too!" He said, "I think that John Quincy Adams will be moving out in a little while, but John Quincy Adams himself is quite well, thank you." You see, he distinguished between his body and his soul, between the place he had been living and where he was going to be. The outward man perisheth, the Scriptures teach, but the inward man is renewed day by day.

Paul, speaking on this same line in the fifth chapter of II Corinthians spoke of the body as a tent, a dwelling. Some translators have translated it, "If this tent, this dwelling falls down and blows away, we have a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." "Some of these days," said Paul, "I shall be absent from the body and at home with my Lord, for I have a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." Oh, I want you to see, my friends, that there is a distinction between your body and your soul.

The Delusion of Trying to Win the World

Now the supposition of this text is not only superlative; it is absolutely impossible. "If a man should gain the whole world"—that isn't possible. No man could gain the world. I know two or three fellows on the horizon right now that would like to do it, but they are not going to succeed. Alexander the Great conquered the whole known world and sat down and wept because there was no more world to conquer. But there were great parts of the world Alexander never heard about. What he did conquer he never possessed. Napoleon came pretty near conquering the world, but Napoleon finished up a brokenhearted man and a prisoner on an island surrounded only by sea. No man can conquer this world until he comes whose right it is to reign. There is One who has a right to reign. You know, from the rivers unto the ends of the earth the kingdoms of this world belong to our God and to His Christ. Some day He is going to take that scepter, and He is going to reign, and righteousness and peace shall cover the earth as the waters cover the sea. Won't that be a wonderful day? Nations will learn war no more. The earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord. No wonder some of us see these things and believe these things and cry out in our hearts, "Come, Lord Jesus,

come quickly!" Oh, we are the most favored people in all the earth, Canada and America. How favored we are. Our lines have fallen to us in pleasant places. I believe the teaching here is true, that the goodness of God should lead us to repentance. We should be humble people. We should be honoring God in our lives, serving Him as these hours are going by. His very goodness has been manifested. He is coming. He is coming one glad day!

A little time ago a young fellow came to me with his Bible at the close of a meeting something like this. He pointed to a certain Scripture and said, "Don't you think this Scripture, this prophecy, is being fulfilled right before our very eyes?" It was where Jesus said that there would be signs in the heavens and on earth, distress of nations, with perplexities, men's hearts failing them for fear and from looking after those things coming upon the earth and that the Heavens should be shaken. Then he added, "Then shall we see the sign of the Son of man coming with power and great glory." Won't that be a great day when He is manifested? We are not going to bring it about by legislation nor by preaching salvation. That is what we are to keep on doing, but it will come about by a great divine manifestation. That is coming. Oh, that it might be today!

Jesus shall reign where 'ere the sun
Doth His successive journeys run.
His kingdom spread from shore to shore,
Till moons shall wax and wane no more."

People have been singing that for a hundred years. Sometimes we believe that will really be true, but we try to spiritualize it and make it meaningless. God bless you, with all my soul I know He shall reign, He who was here, who suffered and was crucified—He will reign on this very earth.

Jesus Wanted You to Think About Your Soul and God and Eternity

No man shall gain the world. If he should, what would it profit him is the question, if he gained it and lost his own soul?

Why should Jesus ask the people a question they couldn't answer? I cannot say positively, but I will tell you what I think. I think He asked the question that day for the same reason I am asking it tonight. He didn't seek their opinion. He didn't need it. But He was trying to make them think about God and the Soul and eternal things. That is one of the difficulties today, to get people to think. But bless you, if you start talking about God, and the soul and eternal doom, they will look at you as if you had smallpox or something and get away from you. Why is it men thus turn from God and don't want to hear about eternal things? Dying men, men who are nearest the end, are sometimes the most obstinate along this line.

I was in a hospital not so long ago with a woman who had a husband that drank very heavily. He was a great mechanic. When the hour came for her passing—I stayed there in the hospital several hours until the very last—she put out her hands. He was on one side of the bed and I was on the other. She got hold of his hands on one side of the bed and mine on the other, and with her last breath she prayed for that man. She prayed and prayed and prayed for the salvation of that man as she died. I was praying, too. We buried her on Wednesday, and the following Sunday night I was surprised to see this man in the seat his wife used to occupy. I thought that looked good to see Bob down there in that seat. I went on with the meeting and prayed and exhorted and invited, and some came. By and by Bob moved out of his seat, out into the aisle. I thought he was coming to the front, but to my amazement, he turned and started to the back, and he almost ran for the door. I went back to see him in a day or two. I went to his job and found a man working at the lathe. I said, "Where's Bob?" "Upstairs," he said, "I am going up to see him." And this man said, "I don't think I would

if I were you, Philpott. He is a terrible sight. He is in an awful condition. I don't think I would go up and see him if I were you." I said, "I will," and I went up the stairs and found him and I said, "Bob, why did you do that Sunday night? Why did you turn and run out of that meeting? I believe God was trying to answer your wife's prayers. I believe God was talking with you. I believe you were thinking, too, about settling it." He said, "I was thinking and I didn't want to think. I came out of that church and filled myself up with rotten whiskey so I couldn't think. I didn't want to think about God." He kept on drinking whiskey until he died two or three days later.

Why is it that the natural heart is enmity against God? God is not trying to destroy any life. He is trying to save the life. Oh, if I could say something that would make somebody think! I know that if you would start thinking, you would take the first step toward God. David said, "I thought on my ways, and turned my feet unto thy testimonies. I made haste, and delayed not to keep thy commandments." David did that just as soon as he thought on his ways.

You remember the story of the prodigal down there by the pig trough. Up to this point he hadn't done any thinking at all. As he sat there so dejected and starving to death, he came to himself—this is the word—he came to himself. He came to himself and said, "What a poor fool I am. Here I am perishing with hunger while in my father's house there is plenty and to spare. I will arise and go home." Sure! When he began to think he had already started down that road. I wish I could say something that would make somebody think.

What it Means For a Soul to Be Lost

This world is lost. Jesus gave us a twofold meaning of the word *lost*. Man may be lost recoverably. I don't know a better term than that or I would use it. He spoke of the parable of the sheep which was lost, of the boy lost, and of the piece of money that was lost in a house. These were all recovered. The boy was found. The sheep was found. The money was found. The lost was recovered. And the Bible says we are all lost. The whole human race is lost, and Jesus Christ came to seek and to save that which is lost. That is what He is doing. I know that most people who have been present in the service from night to night here in Wheaton have been Christian people, but I know some have been here who are not Christian people. I know some outside who have been thinking. I believe, friends, this is evidence that the Son of Man, the Saviour, has been in our midst, seeking to save that which is lost.

I want to give you another incident. A wife asked me to pray with a man in the hospital. She was a strange woman, but she said to me, "My husband is dying and he wants you to come to the hospital." I went into the room and I recognized his face. He was dying. I went over beside him and got down on my knees and took his hand in mine and I said a little bit about his suffering. He said, "Yes, I am suffering, but that isn't bothering me." "What is troubling you now?" I said. "I am dying and I am a lost man." And you won't understand it but I felt glad and thrilled in my soul. "You realize you are lost? God bless your soul, there is a Saviour right here. Wherever there is a lost man, there is a seeking Saviour. He came to seek and to save that which was lost." And hand in hand we talked about the Word of God and like a little child, he came into that place of rest. Oh, yes, He is seeking the lost. That is what He is doing even in these war days, seeking the lost, calling, calling, calling! Do you realize that?

But in this text He used that word in another sense. Man may be lost irrecoverably, lost where he cannot be found, lost where there is no one seeking to save, lost where there is no seeking Saviour. Maybe you will seek and shall never find salvation until that day is past. Lost! What a terrible word is that word *lost* in this connection. I wouldn't try to picture the lost soul. I couldn't do it, but let me say this to you, Jesus once did that. Have you ever thought of

that? I am going to ask you to do something tonight. Read the last part of the sixteenth chapter of Luke, the last half. There you have a picture of a lost soul and his picture painted by a gentle, loving Christ who was seeking to save, seeking to save. Two men died. One was carried into Heaven. The other in hades lifts up his eyes, being in torment. I won't try to talk about it, but I suggest this to you, if you read it you will see it answers a good many questions that people ask. You will see that this explodes a good many religious theories which are quite popular in this day. It explodes the theory of annihilation. Some folks think as far as a sinner is concerned, when he comes to the end, that is the end. No, sir! "It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." (Heb. 9:27). It explodes the theory of there being a second chance, a purgatory through which you can pass and finally reach Heaven. This fellow wanted a second chance and he asked for it, but he was told it was too late. He was told that in his lifetime he had a chance, but it was past and gone, gone forever.

Sometimes people say to me, "Philpott, you get so excited when you think of this." Oh, when I see how stupid man seems to be in spite of the plain Word of God, it makes me almost frantic. Think of those words of the rich man. He could remember what had happened. He asked for any kind of Saviour. He said, "Lazarus will do."

Another theory was exploded. He was told that Lazarus couldn't come from Heaven to the infernal regions. Some people today try to tell us that loved ones come back sometimes and preach the gospel to us. What a delusion! Jesus said, "No, there is a great gulf fixed between so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot, neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence." That was it, beloved friends. Then he said, "I have five brothers who are still living, send someone from the dead to them. Send that resurrected preacher to them." His answer was what? "They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them." Then this rich man in Hell said, "Nay, father Abraham; but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent." And Jesus answered, "If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead."

Beloved, that is the picture painted by Christ of a lost soul. This is the day of salvation. This is the time for accepting Him. If you let this pass, then it is past forever.

It is Your Own Doing if Your Soul Be Lost Forever!

Just another word. If you lose your soul it is your own losing. If you lose your property you may blame somebody else. If you lose your reputation, you may blame somebody else. But if you lose your soul, it is your own losing. It is your own losing. You are custodian of your own soul. You can say, "By God's grace, I will trust Him and serve Him," and no power in Hell or on earth can keep you out of the kingdom. You can settle that great question, or you can refuse to see it. You can laugh it off, you can laugh at the invitation, you can refuse to see it. You can laugh it off, you can laugh at the invitation, you can trample the blood of Christ beneath your feet as many are doing. You can do it, beloved friends. I want you to see that you lose your own soul. "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" You have to settle it.

A young fellow said to me in Denver a couple of years ago, "We don't take any stock in those things. We demand a right to determine our own future." God bless you, every fellow is doing that. You even determine your eternal destiny. Sure you do. Jesus is standing at our hearts knocking.

I will tell you this story and then I am done. Over a hundred years ago in this country—to be exact, one hundred and thirteen years ago—back in Pennsylvania there was a man convicted of murder in a train robbery and he was sentenced to die. After some little time the President of the United States,

Andrew Jackson, granted George Wilson in Pennsylvania a pardon. He refused to accept it. "No, I will not accept it," he said. He argued, and said he wasn't pardoned until he accepted it. They had never heard anything like that before. The State Attorney reported back that the law was silent on this point. Then they carried the case to the Supreme Court of the United States, and here was the deliberation of John Marshall, Chief Justice of the United States, "A pardon is just a piece of paper unless it is accepted by the person which is implicated. If he refuses the pardon, then it is not a pardon. George Wilson must hang." And he was hanged. Even the United States couldn't make a prisoner in Pennsylvania take a pardon if he didn't want it. God Himself cannot force His pardon of mercy or salvation upon you. He has conferred on man wonderful powers. But you can turn your face up to God and refuse to accept His offer, like many have before. That is not His will. It is not His will that anyone should perish but that all men should be saved, said Paul, and come to the knowledge of the truth.

I was thinking before I came to the meeting that if Gabriel were here tonight and preached from this platform, he could not give any greater proof of God's love than that. He would point you to the cross. God gave His Son to die and is willing to save you. He not only gave Himself for you, but He wants to give Himself to you. Will you take Him?

A Word From the Editor to Unsaved Readers

Dear sinner, if you have never been converted, if you are unsaved, you have read this fervent, Spirit-filled sermon by Dr. Philpott. Then answer the question, "How much is Your Soul Worth?" What would it profit if you could gain the whole world and yet lose your soul forever? Oh, there is only one thing for a sensible person to do, and that is to turn to Christ today and let Him save your soul forever! Will you, in simple faith, take Him as your saviour this moment? Trust Him, give Him your heart, turn yourself over to Him right now, and the moment you receive Him, accept Him, trust Him, the best you know how in your heart, that moment He will come in and save your poor soul! If you will do that right now, tell Christ so in your heart. Then please sign this decision form solemnly and sincerely, and either mail it to me, or copy it on a letter or card, or write in your own words that you have found Christ, have this very day trusted Him and given Him your heart. I will let Dr. Philpott know, and I will write to you some good counsel as to how to live for Christ.

Evangelist John R. Rice, Editor,
THE SWORD OF THE LORD
145 N. Hale St., Wheaton, Ill.

Dear Brother Rice:

I have just read Dr. Philpott's blessed sermon, "What Is a Soul Worth?" I have honestly come to see that I am lost and need salvation. I believe that Christ died for me and wants to save me. So right now, I take Christ as my own personal Saviour, and give Him my heart. I risk Him, depend upon Him to save my soul just now, as He promised to do. I mean this as my confession of Christ as my Saviour, and by His grace I will claim Him openly and will try to live for Him daily. Please tell Dr. Philpott for me.

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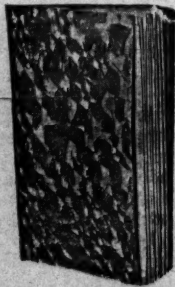
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The Sword of the Lord Publishers
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A Widow, a Pot of Oil and God!

(Continued from page two)

when thou art come in, thou shalt shut the door upon thee and upon thy sons, and shalt pour out into all those vessels, and thou shalt set aside that which is full." The marvel that God would do in answer to the cry of need and a work of faith, was not to be seen by outsiders. It may be that some of the neighbors from whom vessels were borrowed never quite believed that God had multiplied the oil so that it filled all those vessels. Were there any witnesses besides the family? Plenty of people in that community, no doubt, thought that the age of miracles was past, since they themselves never saw one.

Are there miracles in the world today? Well, if there are, they do not happen before the annual meeting of the "American Association for the Advancement of Science." You can be sure that in most cases where God heals the body of some humble Christian, wonderfully releasing the pain and giving health and strength where there had been sickness and despair, there is no committee of doctors present to see the miracle take place.

When Jesus would raise from the dead the little daughter of the ruler of the synagogue the people "laughed him to scorn" and then "when he had put them all out, he taketh the father and the mother of the damsel, and entereth in where the damsel was lying," and raised her from the dead (Mark 5:40). And then "he charged them straitly that no man should know it" (Mark 5:43). That was another miracle behind closed doors!

When Peter was sent forth to pray over the dead body of Dorcas, we are told, "But Peter put them all forth, and kneeled down, and prayed; and turning him to the body said, Tabitha, arise." Another miracle behind closed doors!

Once my father, after a consultation of doctors, was given up to die. The family was told that he could not possibly live through the night after days of coma. But three of us prayed that night and took hold of the edge of the Saviour's garment, bless God, and the next morning my father awoke rational, demanded his clothes, and put them on and went to town to attend to business! But that never got into the newspapers.

Don't you see, humble heart, that when God does big business with the needy souls, He usually does it where the unbelievers and the scoffers will not see it? Oh, that is one of the main reasons for secret prayer. If you really want things from God, then enter into your closet, talk with your Father which sees in secret and then He will reward you openly (Matt. 6:6).

The great spiritual victories have been won in secret. Brainerd, kneeling in the snow, praying for the Indians. Finney in a hay loft in mid-winter wrapped in a buffalo robe, praying all night. D. L. Moody rising at four each morning for an hour alone with God before anyone else awoke; a group of students meeting in "the hay stack prayer meeting" and four men starting the Modern Mission movement John and Charles Wesley with Whitfield and one or two others meeting alone to pray for revival and seeing the beginning of the marvelous Wesleyan Methodist movement that probably saved England from a French Revolution and has been used of God in England and America and around the world to save millions of souls. George Muller walking the floor of his study or kneeling by his chair, hours a day, pleading, arguing with God, quoting Scriptures at God, demanding that a good and holy God must keep His promises, that God must not let orphan children go hungry, and so getting millions of dollars for his work without ever taking a collection or asking anyone for a penny. Those are illustrations of the fact that the biggest deals, the greatest transactions that people ever see completed with God are done with one or a few who go further than others can go in trusting God. Take courage, then, if you are alone. Take courage if you ideas seem radical and over-enthusiastic and impractical to others. It may be if you keep a rendezvous with God at the time and place He has ap-

pointed, and if you furnish the vessels, that He will multiply the oil beyond the dream of anybody.

The Oil Filled All the Vessels — Then Stopped

When all was ready, when the vessels had been borrowed from all the neighbors and the doors were shut, then the mother took her place with the little pot of oil and her sons prepared to bring her the vessels for filling, one after another.

I wish I could have observed that scene. The destiny of these lads depends upon the outcome. The mother's heart is fearful, yet, glad and expectant. I think her hand trembles as she lifts the pot of oil! And as she pours it into the first vessel, pours and pours, the vessel is filled and yet the pot of oil has not diminished! Quickly, lest the miraculous stream of riches cease to flow, she asks for another vessel and pours into it, after setting the first aside. Her lips tremble with praise! Vessel after vessel is filled with the rich olive oil until every vessel available has been filled to the brim. Here is wealth indeed, for in the East and especially among Jews who used no lard, olive oil was a necessity with no substitute — oil for frying food, oil to burn in the lamps, oil for every kind of ointment, salve, face cream, oil to make leather pliable, to keep iron from rusting. No wonder olive oil was a staple that could be sold in any market. The widow's time of trial and poverty and anxiety is done! Her sons are no longer in danger of enslavement.

I can imagine that the muscles in the widow's back are cramped, that beads of perspiration are on her forehead, as, absorbed, she pours in the oil from the undiminished store in the little pot. And as the vessel is nearly full she says quickly to her son, "Bring me yet a vessel." But the son says, "There is not a vessel more," and then the Scripture says, "And the oil stayed." When there were no more vessels, God worked no more miracles. When faith asked no more, God gave no more.

I was not there, and the Scripture does not tell us what the woman thought and said, but I have long imagined that she cried aloud, "Oh, if I had only known the oil would keep pouring, I could have gotten so many more vessels to fill!" She got only as much oil as she provided vessels for.

This same prophet Elisha who had encouraged the widow to trust God to multiply her oil later was near death and King Joash of Israel came to see him. Elisha promised deliverance from the Syrians and said to Joash, "Take the arrows." Joash took them and Elisha said, "Smite upon the ground," and Joash smote the ground three times and stopped. Then the Scripture says, "And the man of God was wroth with him, and said, Thou shouldest have smitten five or six times; then hadst thou smitten Syria till thou hadst consumed it: whereas now thou shalt smite Syria but thrice" (II Kings 13:14-19). The king could have smitten six times as well as three times. His victory was limited by his faith before-hand. So when the woman's vessels were all filled, the oil stayed. Had she gathered more vessels she would have had more oil.

Enough Oil Left to Live On!

Straightway the widow came to tell the prophet Elisha, the man of God, and he said, "Go, sell the oil, and pay thy debt, and live thou and thy children of the rest."

First, she was to pay the debt. Let every Christian remember that that comes first. Jesus said, "If thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift." To have unpaid debts due and not to pay them is dishonest and wicked. Christians ought to pay their debts, if they want God to bless them. How gladly this woman must have paid the debt that had hung over her husband, now gone to glory, and over her, and had threatened the happiness of her sons. So the debt was paid.

But Elisha said, "And live thou and thy children of the rest." One of the marvels of God's goodness is that when God answers prayer He can do more than give us the bare necessities. According to Ephesians 3:20 He "is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think." So when the woman got enough oil to pay her debt, she also got enough for her and her sons to live on. Those who work with God and see God's workings should have an overflow continually into their own lives. In all her days this good woman could remember, "God loves me today. He provided not only the stark necessity to free my sons from bondage, but the daily comfort for many a long day ahead."

Samson, when he found honey in the carcass of the lion, "took thereof in his hands, and went on eating, and came to his father and mother, and he gave them, and they did eat." Here is a similar instance. By a miraculous coming of the Holy Spirit upon Samson he received power from God to slay the lion. And then in the carcass of the same lion, when he went back to view it again, he found that God had provided for his hunger. God answered the widow's faith in prayer. Her sons enjoyed the blessing with her. They never forgot that happy day! They never doubted the God of miracles, the God who answers prayer. And so the father and mother of Samson shared in his blessing, too, the fruit of his miraculous victory.

I am glad Samson ate some of the honey himself as he carried it to his father and mother. There are too many preachers who carry the bread of life to others and yet who have long faces and unsatisfied longings, and hearts too empty of blessings! Too many preachers are like the girl beloved of King Solomon whose plaint is given in Song of Solomon 1:6 "Look not upon me, because I am black, because the sun hath looked upon me: my mother's children were angry with me; they made me the keeper of the vineyards; but mine own vineyard have I not kept." Waiters who serve good food must be neat in dress and happy in face. And preachers who preach the gospel, and would be soul-winners to tell the glad tidings, ought to be able to show that they have eaten some of the honey which they bring to others!

It would have been a poor testimony for the Lord if this widow and her sons had tried to tell later of the wonderful way God had answered prayer, if the blessing was all in the past, and if they were living again in the direst poverty without help. But I am sure that when one of the lads told his playmates about the wonderful miracle of the oil that poured and poured and stayed not, not until the last vessel was full to the brim, they added every time, "And we have some of the oil at our house right now! You can come and see!"

Dear friend, this is the story of a miracle. Is that incredible? Not if there is a God who hears and answers prayer! Not if the Bible is the Word of God! Christianity is a miracle religion. The Bible is a Book of miracles. Being born again is a miracle. Having a prayer answered is a miracle. And blessed be God, I know that God has definitely cared for me through these years, in answer to prayer.

We are early in the new year. Why not, for this year, go and borrow vessels abroad of all thy neighbors; even empty vessels; borrow not a few? Why not make plenty of room for God to work? Why not make big plans, pray big prayers, open wide our mouths for the blessing of God? And as certain as we put our faith in God and follow His directions, we may expect Him to fill every vessel, that, in faith, we empty and provide before Him.

But another lesson yet remains. Olive oil was as good as cash. When the widow had plenty of oil, she had everything she needed. And a Christian needs but to have all his vessels filled with the Spirit of God, and he has light for every darkness, comfort for every sorrow, guidance on every pathway, power for every task. Oh that God would fill us with His Spirit! The one who is full of the Spirit has all the fullness of God. He can have everything else he needs.

I make it my resolve that in 1944 I will be filled with the Holy Spirit.